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Terrestrial small mammals in the Čergov Mountains (Western Carpathians, Czechoslovakia)*

By

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The paper is dedicated to the memory of Tibor WEISZ (1914—1983).

ABSTRACT. The occurrence of 5 species of insectivores: Sorex araneus, S. minutus, S. alpinus, Neomys fodiens, N. anomalus and 7 species of rodents: Muscardinus avellanarius, Sicista betulina, Apodemus agrarius, A. flavicollis, Clethrionomys glareolus, Pitymys subterraneus and Microtus arvalis in the Čergov Mts. range is reported.

A general review of the mammals of the Bardejov district has been given by WEISZ (1976). His list also contains terrestrial small mammals from the Čergov Mts. Besides WEISZ, specialists of the Institute of Parasitology of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences have also studied small mammals and their parasites (HODKOVÁ, 1979). Terrestrial small mammals were also collected by zoologists of the Institute of Pharmacology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (ŠTOLLMANN & RANDÍK, 1979), in the environs of the settlements of Čirč and Ruská Vol'a. Within the framework of an agreement between the Department of Zoology, Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, and the Institute of Experimental Biology and Ecology, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Research Station Staré Hory an intensive investigation of the insectivores and rodents of the Čergov Mts. was carried out during the years 1980-1982.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

Three field trips were made to trap small mammals at the following sites and times:
1) Hertník, valley of Hertnický potok stream, 26-28 Aug., 1980;
2) Lenartov, valley of Večný potok stream, 10-12 Nov., 1981 and 20-23 April, 1982;
3) Livov, valley of Vlčí potok stream, 20-23 April, 1982.

Mammals were trapped along standard lines of 50 traps of the currently available commercial type for 1-4 nights (4650 traps/nights in total). In this way we have obtained a total of 382 specimens of 11 species of terrestrial small mammals (Table 1). For a description of the landscape, see MÉSZÁROS & ŠTOLLMANN (1984).

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RESULTS

INSECTIVORES: this group was represented by 70 specimens (18.31%). Their relative abundance was homogenous in August 1980 and November 1981. A sample from Livov (April 1982) was rather poor in insectivores - only 7.14% of all insectivores obtained. Among the five recorded species Sorex araneus Linnaeus, 1758 was the most numerous (65.71%). Both S. minutus Linnaeus 1766 and S. alpinus Schinz, 1837 accounted for 10% of the total catch. Neomys fodiens (Pennant, 1771) was trapped on 9 occasions (12.85%), N. anomalus Cabrera, 1907 appeared only once in the middle part of the valley of the Večný potok stream near Lenartov.

RODENTS: the most numerous species was Clethrionomys glareolus (Schreber, 1780) (66.98%). The two other dominant species were Pitymys subterraneus (de Sélys-Longchamps, 1835) (18.26%), and Apodemus flavicollis (Melchior, 1834) (9.03%). The remaining part was made up of three species A. agrarius (Pallas, 1771), Microtus arvalis (Pallas, 1779), Muscardinus avellanarius Linnaeus, 1758 was 5.44%. Finally a single specimen of Sicista betulina Pallas, 1779 was obtained (top of Čergov Mts, leg. Dr. F. MÉSZÁROS, 12 June, 1982).

Table 1 Terrestrial small mammals trapped in the Čergov Mountains during field traps between 1980 and 1982

Species \ Locality	Hertník 26-28 August, 1980	Lenartov 10-12 Nov. 1981 and 20-23 April 1982	Livov 20-23 April, 1982	Total	%
1. Sorex araneus	23	22	1	46	12.04
2. Sorex minutus	3	4	-	7	1.83
3. Sorex alpinus	2	3	2	7	1.83
4. Neomys fodiens	3	4	2	9	2.35
5. Neomys anomalus	-	1	-	1	0.26
6. Muscardinus avellanarius	1	-	-	1	0.26
7. Apodemus agrarius	8	1	-	9	2.35
8. Apodemus flavicollis	18	9	2	29	7.59
9. Clethrionomys glareolus	98	55	56	209	54.71
10. Pitymys subterraneus	5	5	47	57	14.92
11. Microtus arvalis	-	5	2	7	1.83
Total	161	109	112	382	100.00

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